

Application No.: 10/673,674
Filing Date: 09/29/2003
Amendment dated January 20, 2005

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-55 (Canceled)

56. (New) A method of processing over a computer network forms directed by multiple public forms users to multiple schools, the forms being processed by a third party forms servicer that is neither one of the schools nor one of the public forms users, the method comprising:

in response to activation by a form user of a hyperlink to a form, where the hyperlinking to the form occurs directly from an individual school's web site without any visible intervening linkage to any page affiliated with another school, presenting to the form user by a third party form servicer the form directed to that individual school and customized in appearance and content in accordance with the preference of the school and including an indication of source corresponding to the school so as to provide to the form user the appearance that the form is associated with the specific school to which it is directed, the form including fields for the form users to enter user information;

receiving by the third party forms servicer over the computer network user information and electronic payment information entered by the user;

processing by the third party forms servicer an electronic payment associated with the form, the processed payment being from the user to the one of the multiple schools to which the form is directed, the third party forms servicer providing to public users customized forms

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identified with a school, while relieving the school of the administrative burden of processing forms and payments.

57. The method of claim 56 further comprising storing by the third party forms servicer at least some of the received user information entered on the form in a user database.

58. (New) The method of claim 57 further comprising:

presenting over a computer network by the third party forms servicer in response to a request from the form user, a second form directed to one of the multiple institutions of higher education; and

automatically inserting from the user database into the second form user information previously entered onto a form directed to one of the multiple institutions by the form user.

59. (New) The method of claim 56 in which receiving by the third party forms servicer over the computer network user information and electronic payment information entered by the user includes verifying that the user information satisfies criteria specified by the one of the multiple institutions of higher education to which the form is directed.

60. (New) The method of claim 56 further comprising verifying in accordance with validation criteria user information on each page of the form as it is posted by the form user.

61. (New) The method of claim 60 in which verifying in accordance with validation criteria user information includes verifying the user information at a client computer or at a server computer.

62. (New) The method of claim 60 in which the validation criteria is specified by the school to which the form is directed.

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63. (New) The method of claim 60 further comprising verifying in accordance with first validation criteria user information on each page of the form as it is posted and verifying in accordance with second validation criteria user information when a completed form is submitted.

64. (New) The method of claim 63 in which verifying user information in accordance with first validation criteria includes verifying user information at a client computer and in which verifying user information in accordance with second validation criteria includes verifying user information at a server computer.

65. (New) A computer readable media comprising computer instructions for performing the steps of claim 56.

66. (New) A computer readable media comprising computer instructions for performing the steps of claim 59.

67. (New) An apparatus for processing over a computer network forms directed by multiple public forms users to multiple academic entities, the forms being processed by a third party forms servicer that is neither one of the multiple entities nor one of the public forms users, the system comprising:

a processor for executing computer instructions, the processor associated with the third party forms servicer; and

computer accessible memory in data communication with the processor and storing computer instructions for:

in response to activation by a form user of a hyperlink to a form, where the hyperlinking to the form occurs directly from an individual school's web site without any

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visible intervening linkage to any page affiliated with another school, presenting to the form user by a third party form servicer the form directed to that individual school and customized in appearance and content in accordance with the preference of the school and including an indication of source corresponding to the school so as to provide to the forms user the appearance that the form is associated with the specific school to which it is directed, the form including fields for the forms users to enter user information;

receiving by the third party forms servicer over the computer network user information and electronic payment information entered by the user; and

processing by the third party forms servicer an electronic payment associated with the form, the processed payment being from the form user to the one of the multiple entities to which the form is directed;

the third party forms servicer providing to form users customized forms identified with the academic entity and providing to the academic entities web-based access to the data, while relieving the academic entity's burden of processing forms and payments.